

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE PAYMENT FOR
TREATMENT IN AN INSTITUTION FOR MENTAL
ILLNESS**

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution urges Congress to extend Medicaid coverage beyond 15 days for services provided in certain settings to adults with serious mental illness.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ Urges Congress to extend Medicaid coverage beyond 15 days for services provided in certain settings to adults with serious mental illness.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, the scope of medical and behavioral health care services covered by Utah's Medicaid program is determined in large measure by federal law;

WHEREAS, for many years, federal law has prohibited coverage of services provided to adults with serious mental illness in an institution for mental disease (IMD), which is an inpatient residential facility having more than 16 beds;

WHEREAS, the federal prohibition long ago achieved its intended purpose of shifting treatment of mental illness from IMDs to outpatient and small residential inpatient settings;

WHEREAS, in 2016, federal regulators authorized coverage of services provided in IMDs for up to 15 days in a month under certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, treatment for more than 15 days in the Utah State Hospital, specialty psychiatric hospitals, or other IMDs is still the most medically appropriate intervention for a small number of Utahns who do not respond to outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment in a small residential setting, or short-term treatment in an IMD;

32 WHEREAS, many of these individuals are ravaged by the recurring effects of serious
33 mental illness because they are unable to receive appropriate treatment in an IMD, due to the
34 federal coverage limit;

35 WHEREAS, the federal government and the state of Utah unnecessarily expend
36 significant sums of public revenue by repeatedly arresting, incarcerating, treating, and housing
37 a small number of individuals who fail to receive appropriate treatment for a serious mental
38 illness; and

39 WHEREAS, society suffers when those who could be restored to a stable, fulfilling life
40 go untreated due to outdated policies:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
42 Governor concurring therein, urges Congress to extend Medicaid coverage beyond 15 days for
43 services provided in an IMD to adults with serious mental illness.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Utah's
45 congressional delegation and the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.